

## **Public Language Awards Committee**

**Charge:** To select the recipients of the annual George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language and The Doublespeak Award.

The NCTE George Orwell Award (<http://www2.ncte.org/awards/george-orwell-award/>), established in 1975, recognizes writers who have made outstanding contributions to the critical analysis of public discourse.

The NCTE Doublespeak Award (<http://www2.ncte.org/awards/doublespeak-award/>), established in 1974, is an ironic tribute to public speakers who have perpetuated language that is grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing, or self-centered.

**Major activities:** What major actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in your charge have been completed by your group since July 1, 2016? In each activity describe the more important features of the work, and connect your work to the NCTE Vision Statement, if applicable.

**1. What actions, projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?**

- Determining recipients of the George Orwell Award and the Doublespeak Award
- Nominating committee members

**2. What have you accomplished so far, and what is your timeline for future work?**

- We have discussed with NCTE the need for the publication dates to be changed from June 30 to August 30 (to allow the rhetoric of the political conventions to be considered that year) and the nomination deadline from September 15 to September 1 (to allow more time for committee members to receive and peruse the nominations). Doug Hesse plans to present this to the Executive Committee.
- Christian Goering will take over as chair of the committee following the November conference.

**3. How has the work of your group contributed to NCTE’s role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts?**

- The awards given last year went to deserving recipients. The George Orwell Award lifts up the use of persuasion in a positive manner, and the Doublespeak Award brings awareness to the manipulation of language.

**Donna Niday, Chair**